

FISCAL NOTE

HB 1542 - SB 1748

March 12, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the *Tennessee Railroad Crossing Protection Act of 2001* which:

- Requires railroads to:
 - report all accidents within 14 days or face \$50 per day penalty.
 - report any change in status at crossings or face \$50 per day penalty.
 - submit plans to the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) for approval and have site inspection for crossing construction or conversion. Entities not complying would be fined \$500 for each violation.
- Requires TDOT to:
 - promulgate standards for construction or conversion of all grade crossings, including warning devices.
 - charge a fee sufficient to offset cost for review and approval of plans, and inspection of the completed crossing.
 - publish and update monthly railroad construction projects on TDOT's webpage. Any railroad with a project on the list for seven consecutive months would be required to publish notices in the area newspapers or receive a \$1,000 fine for every month not published.
- Provides that the provisions of the act to do apply to railroad grade crossings constructed, or converted from a private crossing to a public crossing, before January 1, 2002.
- Requires the Comptroller of the Treasury, on or before February 1, 2002, to undertake a performance audit on this act and report the findings and recommendations to the Senate and House Transportation Committees.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenues - Less Than \$100,000/Highway Fund

**Increase State Expenditures - Less Than \$100,000 Recurring/Highway Fund
\$50,000 One-Time/Highway Fund**

Estimate assumes:

- the total increase in state revenues cannot be determined but is estimated to be less than \$100,000 from fees charged to offset expenses of reviewing and approving plans, and inspecting the completed crossing.
- an increase in state expenditures to review and approve plans, and to inspect completed crossings.
- an increase in state expenditures to investigate violations of the provisions of the bill.
- a one-time cost of approximately \$50,000 for the Comptroller of the Treasury to complete the performance audit required by the bill.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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